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ABSTRACT

This study was designed to investigate the effect that marriage appears to have on college attendance of a group of college-motivated youth during the academic year following their high school graduation. A total of 28,800 National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test participants were selected to compose 72 subsamples formed on the basis of race (black or nonblack), sex, ability level, and geographical region of residence. The return rate was 64% and was related to students' NMSQT selection scores, highest for those with the highest scores. It was concluded that marriage seems a more important factor in the college attendance behavior of nonblack than black males. Marital status of a woman of either race is especially significant as a determinant of college attendance; a married woman is less likely to attend than her male counterpart. Marriage can also affect the type of college entered, the grades received, and completion of the freshman year. The data are illustrated in tables. (JS)

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Black and Nonblack Youth: Does Marriage Hinder College Attendance?

Donivan J. Watley

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NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

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NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Edward C. Smith, President

Donivan J. Watley, Director of Research

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation was founded in 1955 for the purpose of annually identifying and honoring the nation's most talented youth. Merit Scholarships, which are awarded on a competitive basis, provide financial assistance that Scholars use to attend the colleges of their choice.

The NMSC research program was established in 1957 to conduct scholarly research related to the source, identification and development of intellectual talent. NMSC Research Reports are one means of communicating the research program's results to interested individuals.

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ABSTRACT

This study was designed to investigate the effect that marriage appears to have on the college attendance behavior of a group of college-motivated youth during the academic year following their high school graduation. A total of 28,800 NMSQT participants were selected to compose 72 subsamples formed on the basis of these variables: race (black or nonblack), sex, ability level, and geographical region of residence. While many did not return the 1-page questionnaire, a number of tentative conclusions seem justified. Marriage appears to be a more important factor in the college attendance behavior of nonblack than black males. But the marital status of a woman of either race is especially significant as a determinant of college attendance; a married women, regardless of color, is even less likely to attend than her male counterpart. Marriage can also affect the type of college entered, the grades received, and whether a person completed the freshman year.

BLACK AND NONBLACK YOUTH:
DOES MARRIAGE HINDER COLLEGE ATTENDANCE?

Donivan J. Watley

Marriage, according to Webster (1965), is "the institution whereby men and women are joined in a special kind of social and legal dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family." The advice freely offered to those contemplating marriage is that this institution should not be entered into lightly, for with it comes responsibilities that can drastically alter a person's life. Sometimes the changes are welcomed, sometimes not; sometimes the changes are foreseen, sometimes not.

Large numbers of men and women in this country marry at a relatively young age. Figures for 1968 reveal that the median age at first marriage for women is now 20.8 years and 23.1 years for men (U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1969); 62% of the women and 44% of the men between the ages of 20 and 24 years have entered into matrimony.

While the marital relationship is popular among young men and women, so is attending an institution of higher learning. By 1970 about 78% of all 18 year-olds were graduating from high school, up 17 percentage points from 1955. Moreover, an estimated 8,200,000 students enrolled at colleges and universities for the fall term of 1970, nearly three times as many as in 1955. Approximately 72% of the high school graduates now enter some type of formal post-secondary training, 62% of which register in a degree program.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the extent to which marriage appears to affect students' college attendance behavior during the academic year following high school graduation. Involved are students who participated as high school juniors in the competition for National Merit Scholarship awards; virtually all of them indicated at that time that they planned to attend a college or university. Particular attention was focused in this study on the marriage and college attendance patterns of test-bright black and nonblack academic achievers. In studying college attendance, a number of factors were taken into account in addition to an individual's marital status (e.g., race, sex, academic ability level, high school grades, type of high school attended, family income, geographical area of residence).

METHOD

Samples

Since 1955 the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) has conducted the nation's largest private scholarship program. About 750,000 juniors from approximately 17,500 secondary schools voluntarily participate in the annual nationwide scholarship competition by taking the National Merit Scholastic Qualifying Test (NMSQT). About 35,000 of this number are blacks who, in addition to competing for

Merit Scholarships, compete also for awards in the National Achievement Scholarship Program (NASP) for outstanding Negroes. It is estimated that almost all of the test-bright academic achievers in this country take the NMSQT.

Samples for this study were chosen from among the 796,650 students who took the NMSQT in the spring of 1967. A total of 28,800 were selected to compose 72 subsamples formed on the basis of these variables: race (black or nonblack), sex, ability level, and geographical region of residence. Each of the 796,650 students was initially classified into a single subgroup based on his particular attributes. Those selected for this study were chosen randomly within each subgroup. A total of 400 were selected for each subsample in order to provide stable results.

The states included in the four geographical regions (East, Midwest, South, and West) are shown in Figure 1.

East	Midwest	South	West
Connecticut	Illinois	Alabama	Alaska
Delaware	Indiana	Florida	Arizona
District of Columbia	Iowa	Georgia	Arkansas
Maine	Michigan	Kentucky	California
Maryland	Minnesota	Louisiana	Colorado
Massachusetts	Missouri	Mississippi	Hawaii
New Hampshire	Ohio	North Carolina	Idaho
New Jersey	Wisconsin	South Carolina	Kansas
New York		Tennessee	Montana
Pennsylvania			Nebraska
Rhode Island			Nevada
Vermont			New Mexico
Virginia			North Dakota
West Virginia			Oklahoma
			Oregon
			South Dakota
			Texas
			Utah
			Washington
			Wyoming

Fig. 1 Regions

Using NMSQT scores, three levels of academic ability (or educational development) were used for blacks and six levels for nonblacks. The three levels for blacks corresponded to the first, second, and third quarters of the NMSQT selection score distribution for the 1967 black participants. That is, the first level corresponded to the 75-99 quartile, the second level to the 50-74 quartile, and the third to the 25-49 quartile.

Nonblack samples were chosen to match those for blacks falling in the 25-49 and 50-74 quartiles. But nonblacks tend to score higher on the NMSQT than the blacks do--

about 70% of the nonblacks scored above the 75th percentile of the black selection score distribution. Therefore, while the top quartile of the black distribution included selection scores from 91-170, four levels of scores were used for the nonblacks within this range in order to provide a more detailed picture of their college attendance patterns. The top level for the nonblacks included those scoring in the top 10% of the NMSQT selection score distribution for the nonblacks; the second level included the next 10% on the nonblack percentile distribution (80-89); the third level was composed of those whose scores fell in the next 25% on the nonblack distribution (55-79); and the fourth level included nonblacks in the next 25% (30-54) on the nonblack percentile distribution. Altogether, then, there were six levels of tested academic ability for the nonblacks.

A total of 72 subsamples were formed as shown in Figure 2. These samples were representative of the NMSQT participants who had the various attributes under consideration. Importantly, the students who do participate in this program do so voluntarily (although some are requested by their schools to take it), so that the generalizability of the results obtained here are limited in the sense that the students are self-selected. While almost all of the high ability students in America take the NMSQT, students with lower tested academic ability are less likely to participate. Students who scored in the bottom quartile of the NMSQT distribution for blacks were not included in this study because this group may not be representative of students who obtain scores this low.

Followup Questionnaire

Marital status of those in the study was determined by a followup questionnaire. If the participants entered college, they normally would have done so in the fall of 1968. About one year later, in late 1969, each person was asked to complete a 1-page questionnaire requesting information about his post-high school experience. Among the questions asked were: Are you married? Did you attend college during the 1968-1969 school year? If you attended, how much of the school year did you complete? Which college did you attend? What grade average did you earn for the course work completed during your freshman year?

The colleges attended were classified by type: (1) public 2-year, (2) public 4-year, (3) private 2-year, and (4) private 4-year.

Students were asked to estimate their family income (before taxes) for the previous year: (1) $4,000 or less; (2) $4,001-$6,000; (3) $6,001-$8,000; (4) $8,001-$10,000; (5) $10,001-$12,000; (6) $12,001-$15,000; (7) $15,001-$20,000; (8) $20,001 or more. This variable was used to represent students' socioeconomic status (SES): (a) low--$6,000 or less; (b) moderate--$6,001-$12,000; (c) high--$12,001 or more.

NMSQT SCORE DISTRIBUTION	GEOGRAPHICAL AREA															
	EAST				MIDWEST				SOUTH				WEST			
	Black		Nonblack		Black		Nonblack		Black		Nonblack		Black		Nonblack	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
131-170			400	400			400	400			400	400			400	400
122-130			400	400			400	400			400	400			400	400
106-121			400	400			400	400			400	400			400	400
91-105			400	400			400	400			400	400			400	400
91-170	400	400	1,600	1,600	400	400	1,600	1,600	400	400	1,600	1,600	400	400	1,600	1,600
75-90	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
62-74	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
Total	1,200	1,200	2,400	2,400	1,200	1,200	2,400	2,400	1,200	1,200	2,400	2,400	1,200	1,200	2,400	2,400
	2,400		4,800		2,400		4,800		2,400		4,800		2,400		4,800	

Fig. 2 Design of the College Attendance Study

The initial identification of blacks was determined on the basis of whether a student indicated on his NMSQT answer sheet that he was eligible for and wished to be considered for scholarship aid through the National Achievement Program for outstanding Negroes. Students were not asked to indicate their race as such on the NMSQT answer sheet. To check whether participants selected for this study had been accurately classified as "black" or "nonblack," they were asked to indicate their race on the followup questionnaire. Those who were initially classified incorrectly were changed according to the race they indicated on the questionnaire.

The student addresses used for the questionnaire mailing were about two and one-half years old. The addresses available were those used on the NMSQT answer sheets, completed in the spring of 1967. Two additional mailings were sent to the nonresponders after the initial mailing of the questionnaires. It is estimated that 2,592 of the participants did not receive the questionnaires because they could not be located.

Additional Information

Other information was obtained during the NMSQT testing that was used in this study. This included: intention of entering college (yes or no), first and second college preferences, high school grade average, type of high school attended (public, independent, or parochial), location of the high school attended, and the population of the area served by the local high school (10,000 or less; 10,000-50,000; 50,000-250,000; 250,000 or more).

RESULTS

Questionnaire Response

Approximately 9% of the 28,800 questionnaires were returned undelivered, probably because current addresses were not available for many students. Of the 17,472 questionnaires presumably delivered to the nonblacks, 11,207 were returned by them with some usable information--a return rate of 64%. A higher percentage of women (68%) than men (59%) returned completed questionnaires, and the rate for those in the Midwest with both sexes combined (66%) was slightly higher than it was in the West (64%), East (63%), or South (61%).

The rate of return was related to students' NMSQT selection scores. It was highest for those who obtained scores in the 131-170 range and lowest for those with scores in the 62-74 range; e.g., the response rate for all nonblack women in the 131-170 range was 84% but only 43% for those in the 62-74 range. The corresponding rates for nonblack men were 75% and 40%. Therefore, most attention in this analysis will be given to those who obtained relatively higher NMSQT selection scores; the results for those at the lower end of the NMSQT distribution should be interpreted with caution because of the large percentage of nonresponders.

In general, the response rate was lower for blacks than nonblacks, only 52% of them returning usable questionnaire information. Thus these results too will require careful interpretation because the responders may not be representative of the population from which they were drawn. As was found for nonblacks, the questionnaire return rate was higher for women than for men--57% to 46%. Unlike the blacks, however, the rate of return was higher for both sexes combined in the South (57%) than in the West (52%), East (50%), or Midwest (47%). The return rate for blacks was related to NMSQT scores, the rate being higher for those scoring highest on the NMSQT; 62% of all black women in the 91-170 range returned completed questionnaires, for example, while only 50% for those in the 62-74 range did so. The corresponding rates for men were 52% and 41%.

Information obtained from relatives revealed that at least 14 of the participants were deceased. It was also learned that 337 were high school sophomores rather than juniors when they took the NMSQT. These subjects were eliminated since the design of the study was restricted to juniors who normally would have entered college for the first time in the fall of 1968.

Responders to the questionnaire were asked to indicate their race. This information was needed to verify the placement of participants into black and nonblack categories, initially made on the basis of whether students marked on the NMSQT answer sheet as eleventh graders that they wished to be considered for National Achievement Scholarships for outstanding Negroes. Of those initially thought to be black, 128 men and 62 women indicated on the followup questionnaire that they were not. They were transferred from the "black" to the "nonblack" category. On the other hand, 23 men and 57 women initially selected as nonblacks indicated on the questionnaire that they were black, so the appropriate transfer was made.

How Many Are Married?

We are concerned here about the frequency of marriage among young men and women who, if they had entered college, would just be starting their sophomore year. In considering these frequencies, however, let us keep in mind that the median age at first marriage is 20.8 for women and 23.1 for men, so the youth in this study have not yet reached the age where marriage occurs most frequently.

Let us look first at the marriage frequency question from the standpoint of students' high school grades. Were fewer B+ to A students married than students with lower averages? Table 1 shows that not many males--either black or nonblack--reported that they were married. Altogether, only 3% of the blacks and nonblacks in the 91-170 range (the top quarter of the black NMSQT selection score distribution)

Table 1

The Number of Black and Nonblack Males With Different Characteristics and the Percent that are Married

NMSQT Selection Score Range	SES	Overall High School Grade Average: B+ to A Black N	B+ to A Black %	B+ to A Nonblack N	B+ to A Nonblack %	C+ to B Black N	C+ to B Black %	C+ to B Nonblack N	C+ to B Nonblack %	C and Below Black N	C and Below Black %	C and Below Nonblack N	C and Below Nonblack %	Total Black N	Total Black %	Total Nonblack B	Total Nonblack %
131-170	Low	-		64	2	-		20	5	-		-		-		84	2
	Mod	-		304	1	-		80	1	-		4	25	-		388	2
	High	-		419	1	-		154	3	-		4	0	-		577	2
	Total	-		787	1	-		254	3	-		8	13	-		1,049	2
122-130	Low	-		57	6	-		47	9	-		3	0	-		107	7
	Mod	-		237	4	-		150	6	-		7	0	-		394	5
	High	-		219	1	-		206		-		21	0	-		446	1
	Total	-		513	3	-		403	3	-		31	0	-		947	3
106-121	Low	-		54	7	-		46	4	-		5	0	-		105	6
	Mod	-		174	1	-		241	5	-		17	12	-		432	4
	High	-		139	1	-		194	3	-		17	0	-		350	2
	Total	-		367	2	-		481	4	-		39	5	-		887	3
91-105	Low	-		32	0	-		71	7	-		13	0	-		116	4
	Mod	-		90	4	-		295	5	-		42	0	-		427	4
	High	-		48	0	-		180	4	-		55	0	-		283	3
	Total	-		170	2	-		546	5	-		110	0	-		826	4
91-170	Low	91	3	207	4	135	4	184	7	15	0	21	0	241	4	412	5
	Mod	88	2	805	2	165	3	766	5	31	0	70	4	284	2	1,641	4
	High	58	2	825	1	60	2	734	2	16	0	97	0	134	1	1,656	2
	Total	237	3	1,837	2	360	3	1,684	4	62	0	188	2	659	3	3,709	3
75-90	Low	55	15	15	7	180	5	58	5	40	8	26	12	275	7	99	7
	Mod	31	3	48	4	127	6	247	4	45	9	92	7	203	6	387	5
	High	5	0	16	0	38	0	139	4	14	0	51	4	57	0	206	3
	Total	91	10	79	4	345	5	444	4	99	7	169	7	535	6	692	5
62-74	Low	32	6	10	10	189	6	60	3	61	8	39	5	282	6	109	5
	Mod	16	6	4	0	127	6	161	8	71	8	132	8	214	7	297	8
	High	2	0	2	0	23	4	70	3	13	0	67	6	38	3	139	4
	Total	50	6	16	6	339	6	291	6	145	8	238	7	534	6	545	6
Total	Low	178	7	232	4	504	5	302	6	116	7	86	6	798	6	620	5
	Mod	135	3	857	3	419	5	1,174	5	147	7	294	6	701	5	2,325	4
	High	65	2	843	1	121	2	943	3	43	0	215	3	229	1	2,001	2
	Total	378	5	1,932	2**	1,044	5	2,419	4	306	6	595	5	1,728	5	4,946	4*

Note.--For Tables 1-17 comparisons were made in each cell between the percentages reported for blacks and nonblacks; the differences that are statistically significant have this designation: * = p .05 level; ** = p .01 level; *** = p .001 level.

were married. Grade averages or parents' income level appear to have little bearing on the frequency of marriage for males in this NMSQT range.

The frequency of marriage was somewhat higher, however, for both black and nonblack males in the 75-90 and 62-74 ranges, particularly for those whose parents were in the lower income levels. But high school grades generally did not appear to be a significant factor. Only in one case were grades a factor: when the totals across all ability levels were taken into account, nonblack males with B+ to A averages were slightly less likely to marry than blacks with B+ to A averages or nonblacks with averages of B or lower.

The women in this study were somewhat more likely to be married than were the men. Frequency of marriage for women was related to measured ability level and to parental income, but overall, high school grades appeared unimportant. The highest marital rate occurred among low-income nonblacks (Table 2).

Another analysis was done taking into account geographic area of residence--East, Midwest, South, or West. Overall, the marital rate was virtually the same for black males in each area, but nonblacks in the West (6%) were more often married than nonblacks in the other regions (2 to 3% each). The greatest frequency of marriage occurred among the Western low income families.

Interestingly, marriage occurred about twice as often among black women in the Midwest, South, and West as in the East (about 10% to 5%); in all sections except the South, SES level was clearly related to frequency of marriage. Even high SES Southern black women with NMSQT scores in the 91-170 range were just as often married (about 12%) as were blacks from low income families who had much lower NMSQT scores.

For nonblack women, parental income was related to the rate of marriage in each region. In the East, only 3% of the high income women were married, while 13% of those from families making $6,000 or less were married. In the South, 8% of the women from high income families were married, but 22% from low SES families reported that they were married. In general, women with relatively lower NMSQT selection scores, regardless of region, were much more frequently married than those who had higher scores.

An important consideration in this investigation concerns the relatively high percent of nonresponders to the questionnaire. Although the methodological soundness of a study is improved by having data for a high percent of the participants, the nonresponse problem assumes more importance with some analyses than with others. To learn the rates of college attendance for students with particular characteristics, for example, it substantially helps in interpreting the results if data are not missing for a third of the subjects. How can you be sure what is hidden in the missing

Table 2

The Number of Black and Nonblack Females With Different Characteristics and the Percent that are Married

NMSQT Selection Score Range	SES	Overall High School Grade Average: B+ to A — Black N	Black %	Nonblack N	Nonblack %	C+ to B — Black N	Black %	Nonblack N	Nonblack %	C and Below — Black N	Black %	Nonblack N	Nonblack %	Total — Black N	Black %	Nonblack N	Nonblack %
131-170	Low	-		89	8	-		11	9	-		-		-		100	8
	Mod	-		356	7	-		72	4	-		-		-		428	7
	High	-		540	4	-		97	4	-		2	-	-		639	4
	Total	-		985	6	-		180	4	-		2	-	-		1,167	6
122-130	Low	-		77	16	-		28	18	-		1	100	-		106	17
	Mod	-		356	7	-		134	8	-		2	-	-		492	7
	High	-		338	4	-		142	5	-		-		-		480	5
	Total	-		771	7	-		304	8	-		3	33	-		1,078	7
106-121	Low	-		81	20	-		62	3	-		5	20	-		148	13
	Mod	-		278	7	-		198	8	-		9	11	-		485	7
	High	-		203	7	-		175	5	-		6	17	-		384	6
	Total	-		562	9	-		435	6	-		20	15	-		1,017	8
91-105	Low	-		69	13	-		97	16	-		8	13	-		174	15
	Mod	-		168	18	-		268	10	-		17	18	-		453	13
	High	-		85	4	-		198	7	-		14	7	-		297	6
	Total	-		322	13	-		563	10	-		39	13	-		924	11
91-170	Low	161	7	316	14*	140	10	198	12	15	-	14	21	316	8	528	13*
	Mod	148	7	1,158	9	191	5	672	8	20	10	28	14	359	6	1,858	9
	High	55	11	1,166	5*	74	4	612	6	5	-	22	9	134	7	1,800	5
	Total	364	8	2,640	8	405	7	1,482	8	40	5	64	14	809	7	4,186	8
75-90	Low	119	8	42	26**	204	9	93	17	38	16	12	17	361	9	147	20**
	Mod	63	8	75	13	201	6	248	13*	38	8	38	13	302	7	361	13*
	High	18	6	40	15	52	4	155	6	10	10	30	3	80	5	225	8
	Total	200	8	157	17**	457	7	496	12*	86	12	80	10	743	8	733	13**
62-74	Low	67	21	21	38	255	9	75	21**	71	8	35	14	393	11	131	22***
	Mod	26	8	33	15	168	8	173	11	47	11	86	14	241	9	292	12
	High	8	13	5	20	25	16	79	14	16	6	36	8	49	12	120	13
	Total	101	17	59	24	448	9	327	14*	134	9	157	13	683	10	543	15*
Total	Low	347	10	379	17*	599	9	366	15**	124	10	61	16	1,070	10	806	16***
	Mod	237	8	1,266	9	560	7	1,093	10*	105	10	152	14	902	7	2,511	10*
	High	81	10	1,211	5	151	6	846	7	31	6	88	7	263	7	2,145	6
	Total	665	9	2,856	8	1,310	8	2,305	9	260	9	301	12	2,235	8	5,462	9

data? There may be a systematic response bias among subjects who did not attend college. On the other hand, if another dependent variable is used (e.g., college attendance among married and unmarried blacks) where a systematic bias appears less likely to have occurred, one probably can have more confidence in the obtained results, at least in terms of noting the direction of the differences that are observed between the groups involved.

How Many Are In College?

Let us turn to a key question of this investigation: Controlling various student characteristics, did a greater percentage of single youth attend college during the 1968-1969 academic year than did those who married? In this analysis, blacks and nonblacks are studied separately.

The totals across all ability levels in Table 3 indicate that married black males were clearly less likely than single blacks to attend college in the East, Midwest, and South. But in the West the difference in attendance rates was much less (93% to 87%). Thus for whatever reasons, college attendance was more common for married blacks in that region.

If a black male had an NMSQT score in the 91-170 range, whether he was married or not did not matter regarding college attendance; 95% of the marrieds and the unmarrieds entered a college or university. If his score were in this range and he had a B+ to A average in high school, it was a virtual certainty that he entered a college somewhere. The point should not be lost, however, that not very many of the higher scoring blacks were married.

Marriage appeared to play a more important role in the college attendance behavior of nonblack males than among blacks. Except in the South, a smaller percentage of married nonblacks than blacks in each region were enrolled in college. The lowest nonattendance rate was recorded for the married Eastern nonblacks, only 59% of them listed among the enrollees (Table 4). In general, the income of one's parents did not appear important in determining whether a married nonblack male would attend college.

Whether a woman--black or nonblack--attended college or not depended a great deal on her marital status. A married women was even less likely to have entered college than her male counterpart. Table 5 shows that only 47% of the Southern black females who were married entered college; the comparable percentage for the Midwest was only 55. However, the higher scoring married blacks (in the 91-170 range) did attend college more frequently than did those who got lower scores. If a married black woman came from a family making $6,000 or less, the odds were only about 50-50 that she entered a college or university.

Table 3

The Number of Married and Single Black Males With Different Characteristics and the Percent that Entered College

NMSQT Selection Score Range	SES	Geographic Area of State of High School: East Married N	East Married %	East Single N	East Single %	Midwest Married N	Midwest Married %	Midwest Single N	Midwest Single %	South Married N	South Married %	South Single N	South Single %	West Married N	West Married %	West Single N	West Single %	Total Married N	Total Married %	Total Single N	Total Single %
91-170	Low	1	100	48	94	3	100	39	90	3	67	95	89	2	100	56	96	9	89	238	92
	Mod	1	100	75	96	2	100	69	96	3	100	68	97	2	100	68	97	8	100	280	96
	High	1	100	48	96	-		23	100	1	100	25	100	-		38	95	2	100	134	97
	Total	3	100	171	95	5	100	131	95	7	86	188	94	4	100	162	96	19	95	652	95
75-90	Low	4	50	57	82	2	100	44	95	6	50	102	85*	9	78	63	89	21	67	266	87**
	Mod	4	50	55	87*	4	100	57	88	2	50	36	92	2	50	50	92*	12	67	198	89*
	High	-		18	89	-		17	100	-		13	100	-		10	90	-		58	95
	Total	8	50	130	85**	6	100	118	92	8	50	151	88**	11	73	123	90	33	67	522	89***
62-74	Low	6	83	51	78	1	-	44	86*	5	80	114	84	6	100	66	88	18	83	275	84
	Mod	1	100	56	80	5	60	55	89	6	83	41	80	2	100	56	96	14	79	208	87
	High	-		10	90	1	-	9	78	-		5	100	-		15	93	1	-	39	90**
	Total	7	86	117	80	7	43	108	87**	11	82	160	84	8	100	137	92	33	79	522	86
Total	Low	11	73	156	85	6	83	127	91	14	64	311	86*	17	88	185	91	48	77	779	88*
	Mod	6	67	186	89	11	82	181	91	11	82	145	91	6	83	174	95	34	79	686	92*
	High	1	100	76	93	1	-	49	96***	1	100	43	100	-		63	94	3	67	231	95*
	Total	18	72	418	88*	18	78	357	92*	26	73	499	89*	23	87	422	93	85	78	1,696	90***

Table 4

The Number of Married and Single Nonblack Males With Different Characteristics and the Percent that Entered College

NMSQT Selection Score Range	SES	Geographic Area of State of High School: East Married N	East Married %	East Single N	East Single %	Midwest Married N	Midwest Married %	Midwest Single N	Midwest Single %	South Married N	South Married %	South Single N	South Single %	West Married N	West Married %	West Single N	West Single %	Total Married N	Total Married %	Total Single N	Total Single %
131-170	Low	-		19	89	1	100	22	100	1	100	23	100	-		18	89	2	100	82	95
	Mod	-		65	97	1	-	125	99***	3	100	94	99	2	100	101	96	6	83	385	98*
	High	2	50	161	99***	1	100	137	98	1	100	142	99	6	100	136	99	10	90	576	99*
	Total	2	50	245	98***	3	67	284	99***	5	100	259	99	8	100	255	97	18	89	1,043	98**
122-130	Low	2	100	15	100	1	-	29	93**	2	100	31	100	2	100	27	89	7	86	102	95
	Mod	3	67	92	98**	6	100	102	95	2	100	93	98	8	75	92	100***	19	84	379	98***
	High	1	100	120	99	-		110	98	-		95	99	3	100	119	97	4	100	444	98
	Total	6	83	227	99**	7	86	241	96	4	100	219	99	13	85	238	97*	30	87	925	98***
106-121	Low	1	100	20	90	1	100	26	100	1	100	23	96	4	100	32	94	7	100	101	95
	Mod	3	100	95	98	6	83	115	95	3	100	99	99	4	50	113	96***	16	81	422	97**
	High	1	100	84	98	3	67	95	100***	3	67	79	97**	-		92	96	7	71	350	98***
	Total	5	100	199	97	10	80	236	97**	7	86	201	98*	8	75	237	96**	30	83	873	97***
91-105	Low	1	-	22	91**	1	100	30	90	2	50	31	90	1	100	32	91	5	60	115	90*
	Mod	1	100	114	95	2	50	107	97***	6	83	94	93	10	100	99	94	19	89	414	95
	High	-		78	95	3	67	71	99***	2	100	62	90	3	100	68	93	8	88	279	94
	Total	2	50	214	94**	6	67	208	97***	10	80	187	91	14	100	199	93	32	84	808	94*
91-170	Low	4	75	76	92	4	75	107	95	6	83	108	96	7	100	109	91	21	86	400	94
	Mod	7	86	366	97	15	80	449	97**	14	93	380	97	24	83	405	97**	60	85	1,600	97***
	High	4	75	443	98**	7	71	413	99***	6	83	378	97*	12	100	415	97	29	86	1,649	98***
	Total	15	80	885	97***	26	77	969	97***	26	88	866	97*	43	91	929	96	110	85	3,649	97***
75-90	Low	-		21	71	-		32	69	2	50	17	82	5	40	25	84*	7	43	95	76
	Mod	6	50	106	79	4	75	79	76	3	100	85	91	6	100	105	88	19	79	375	83
	High	1	-	54	93**	-		59	88	1	100	47	94	5	60	43	93*	7	57	203	92**
	Total	7	43	181	82**	4	75	170	79	6	83	149	91	16	69	173	88*	33	67	673	85**
62-74	Low	1	-	31	74	1	100	25	64	-		27	96	3	67	26	81	5	60	109	79
	Mod	3	33	86	77	6	17	83	83***	5	20	51	82**	10	50	64	75	24	33	284	79***
	High	1	-	36	67	2	50	40	78	1	100	28	93	2	-	34	97***	6	33	138	83**
	Total	5	20	153	74**	9	33	148	78**	6	33	106	89***	15	47	124	82**	35	37	531	80***
Total	Low	5	60	128	84	5	80	164	85	8	75	152	95*	15	73	160	88	33	73	604	88**
	Mod	16	63	558	90***	25	64	611	92***	22	77	516	95***	40	78	574	93**	103	72	2,259	92***
	High	6	50	533	95***	9	67	512	96***	8	88	453	97	19	79	492	96***	42	74	1,990	96***
	Total	27	59	1,219	92***	39	67	1,287	93***	38	79	1,121	95***	74	77	1,226	93***	178	72	4,853	93***

Table 5

The Number of Married and Single Black Females With Different Characteristics and the Percent that Entered College

NMSQT Selection Score Range	SES	Geographic Area of State of High School: East Married N	East Married %	East Single N	East Single %	Midwest Married N	Midwest Married %	Midwest Single N	Midwest Single %	South Married N	South Married %	South Single N	South Single %	West Married N	West Married %	West Single N	West Single %	Total Married N	Total Married %	Total Single N	Total Single %
91-170	Low	6	67	60	95*	5	80	56	89	13	54	114	92***	4	100	71	94	28	68	301	93***
	Mod	2	50	88	95**	8	63	91	95**	8	88	81	98	5	80	83	99**	23	74	343	97***
	High	2	100	39	90	3	67	37	100***	3	67	23	100**	1	100	28	100	9	78	127	97**
	Total	10	70	187	94**	16	69	184	94***	24	67	218	95***	10	90	182	97	60	72	771	95***
75-90	Low	7	57	69	80	6	50	63	90**	16	38	118	89***	9	44	87	91***	38	45	337	88***
	Mod	3	33	79	89**	7	86	74	91	1	-	63	90**	12	75	70	94*	23	70	286	91**
	High	1	100	24	92	2	50	23	96*	-		9	100	2	100	21	95	5	80	77	95
	Total	11	55	172	85**	15	67	160	91**	17	35	190	90***	23	65	178	93***	66	56	700	90***
62-74	Low	3	67	67	76	10	30	63	76**	14	29	142	72***	18	61	91	85*	45	44	363	77***
	Mod	4	75	72	82	4	50	65	88*	9	56	42	83	4	50	48	100***	21	57	227	88***
	High	-		14	86	2	-	16	94***	4	25	8	100**	1	100	5	80	7	29	43	91***
	Total	7	71	153	80	16	31	144	83***	27	37	192	76***	23	61	144	90***	73	47	633	82***
Total	Low	16	63	196	83*	21	48	182	85***	43	40	374	83***	31	61	249	90***	111	50	1,001	85***
	Mod	9	56	239	89**	19	68	230	91**	18	67	186	92***	21	71	201	98***	67	67	856	92***
	High	3	100	77	90	7	43	76	97***	7	43	40	100***	4	100	54	96	21	62	247	95***
	Total	28	64	512	87***	47	55	488	90***	68	47	600	87***	56	68	504	93***	199	57	2,104	89***

Table 6

The Number of Married and Single Nonblack Females With Different Characteristics and the Percent that Entered College

NMSQT Selection Score Range	SES	Geographic Area of State of High School: East Married N	East Married %	East Single N	East Single %	Midwest Married N	Midwest Married %	Midwest Single N	Midwest Single %	South Married N	South Married %	South Single N	South Single %	West Married N	West Married %	West Single N	West Single %	Total Married N	Total Married %	Total Single N	Total Single %
131-170	Low	1	-	22	100***	2	100	25	92	3	100	20	90	3	67	28	96*	9	78	95	95
	Mod	4	100	96	97	8	88	113	100***	11	100	89	99	6	83	105	100***	29	93	403	99**
	High	7	86	165	99***	2	50	141	99***	15	93	158	100**	6	100	154	98	30	90	618	99***
	Total	12	83	283	99***	12	83	279	99***	29	97	267	99	15	87	287	99**	68	90	1,116	99***
122-130	Low	4	-	19	95***	1	100	30	93	4	75	20	100*	9	56	22	91*	18	50	91	95***
	Mod	4	75	111	93	10	70	129	96***	13	69	114	96***	10	70	114	96***	37	70	468	96***
	High	2	50	129	98***	9	78	120	99***	6	100	108	99	5	80	108	99**	22	82	465	99***
	Total	10	40	259	95***	20	75	279	97***	23	78	242	98***	24	67	244	97***	77	69	1,024	97***
106-121	Low	1	100	34	94	5	100	26	92	5	60	34	88	8	63	36	94*	19	74	130	92*
	Mod	7	86	115	95	6	83	115	86	7	71	122	98***	15	87	104	94	35	83	456	93*
	High	2	100	102	94	7	71	90	93*	5	100	83	98	10	80	90	100***	24	83	365	96**
	Total	10	90	251	94	18	83	231	90	17	76	239	96***	33	79	230	97***	78	81	951	94***
91-105	Low	7	57	32	84	5	40	40	95***	7	86	41	88	7	43	36	86*	26	58	149	89***
	Mod	10	60	114	75	13	54	101	84**	16	69	91	90*	21	57	92	91***	60	60	398	84***
	High	2	50	76	89	6	50	72	89**	5	60	63	94*	5	60	76	96**	18	56	287	92***
	Total	19	58	222	81*	24	50	213	88***	28	71	195	91**	33	55	204	92***	104	59	834	88***
91-170	Low	13	38	107	93***	13	77	121	93*	19	79	115	90	27	56	122	92***	72	63	465	92***
	Mod	25	76	436	89*	37	70	458	92***	47	77	416	96***	52	71	415	96***	161	73	1,725	93***
	High	13	77	472	96***	24	67	423	96***	31	90	412	98**	26	81	428	98***	94	80	1,735	97***
	Total	51	67	1,015	93***	74	70	1,002	94***	97	81	943	96***	105	70	965	96***	327	73	3,925	95***
75-90	Low	5	40	31	71	2	50	27	96*	17	47	30	77*	6	67	35	80	30	50	123	80***
	Mod	11	73	83	81	9	22	97	79***	9	44	68	85**	17	53	75	81*	46	50	323	81***
	High	3	33	54	85*	2	-	68	85**	7	71	47	89	5	100	41	93	17	65	210	88**
	Total	19	58	168	80*	13	23	192	84***	33	52	145	85***	28	64	151	84*	93	53	656	83***
62-74	Low	7	29	25	56	3	67	23	70	10	40	23	78*	10	30	34	59	30	37	105	65**
	Mod	7	14	66	61*	10	20	83	72***	10	40	48	79*	12	42	63	87***	39	31	260	74***
	High	-		29	76	4	50	40	85	6	33	20	90**	5	40	20	80	15	40	109	83***
	Total	14	21	120	63**	17	35	146	75***	26	38	91	81***	27	37	117	78***	84	35	474	74***
Total	Low	25	36	163	83***	18	72	171	91*	46	59	168	86***	43	51	191	84***	132	54	693	86***
	Mod	43	65	585	85***	56	54	638	87***	66	67	532	93***	81	63	553	93***	246	62	2,308	89***
	High	16	69	555	94***	30	60	531	94***	44	80	479	97***	36	78	489	97***	126	73	2,054	95***
	Total	84	57	1,303	89***	104	59	1,340	90***	156	68	1,179	94***	160	63	1,233	93***	504	63	5,055	91***

Where a nonblack woman lived, the income level of her parents, and her measured academic ability all were related to the probability of attending college during the academic year following graduation. Nevertheless, while many more women than men were married, the highest scoring married females (131-170 range) attended college with the same frequency that was observed for the highest scoring married males. Scores in this range fall in the top 10% on nonblack NMSQT norms (Table 6).

All things considered, if a woman has her heart set on college, her chances of attending an institution of higher learning soon after completing secondary school are better if she does not marry.

In general, the same conclusion applies for men, particularly for those with high school grade averages below B+. Table 7 shows a decided difference in college attendance rates for married and unmarried males with C+ to B averages when NMSQT scores are disregarded. A married male with a C average or below had only about a 50-50 chance of entering college, but if he were single the odds were about 4 to 1 that he would enter college.

Table 7

The Number of Married and Unmarried Black and Nonblack Youth With Various High School Grade Averages and the Percent that Entered College

Sex and Marital Status	SES	High School Grade Average: B+ to A				C+ to B				C and Below				Total			
		Black		Nonblack		Black		Nonblack		Black		Nonblack		Black		Nonblack	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Married Males	Low	13	100	10	90	26	77	17	65	8	38	5	60	47	77	32	72
	Mod	4	100	22	86	19	79	61	70	10	70	19	58	33	79	102	72
	High	1	100	10	100	2	50	25	68	-		6	50	3	67	41	73
	Total	18	100	42	90	47	77	103	69	18	56	30	57	83	77	175	72
Unmarried Males	Low	165	95	222	98	478	87	285	87	108	78	81	67	751	87	588	88
	Mod	131	95	835	98	400	94	1,113	93	137	82	275	77	668	92	2,223	93
	High	64	98	833	99	119	96	918	96	43	88	209	86	226	95	1,960	96
	Total	360	95	1,890	98**	997	91	2,316	93*	288	81	565	79	1,645	90	4,771	94***
Married Females	Low	35	54	63	62	55	49	56	48	12	42	10	50	102	50	129	55
	Mod	18	83	115	75	37	65	105	57	10	50	21	19	65	68	241	62
	High	8	50	63	89**	9	78	55	58	2	50	6	33	19	63	124	73
	Total	61	62	241	75*	101	57	216	55	24	46	37	30	186	58	494	63
Unmarried Females	Low	312	91	316	92	544	86	310	84	112	65	51	63	968	85	677	86
	Mod	219	95	1,151	95	523	93	988	85***	95	83	131	69*	837	92	2,270	89*
	High	73	97	1,148	99	142	96	791	93	29	86	82	80	244	95	2,021	96
	Total	604	93	2,615	96**	1,209	90	2,089	88	236	75	264	71	2,049	89	4,968	91**

Regardless of a woman's grades, her chances of entering college within the year following high school graduation were greatly reduced if she were married (Table 7). A married woman with a C+ to B high school average did not have much better than a 50-50 chance of entering college, while over 90% of the single black and nonblack

women with similar grades managed to begin collegiate programs shortly after finishing secondary school.

Marital Status and Type of College Entered

Marital status is related to the type of college attended, especially for nonblacks. Table 8 indicates fairly similar percentages of married and unmarried black males at the various types of colleges, but clear differences can be seen for the married and single nonblacks. A single nonblack attender, for example, was twice as likely as a married attender to have entered a 4-year private institution (34% to 16%). Data supplied by the U. S. Office of Education (1969) reveals that 24% of all new students in college for the first time in 1968 entered privately controlled institutions, so nonblack married males were underrepresented on the basis of these national figures. Black male attenders were overrepresented at institutions of this type regardless of whether they were married or not.

Table 8

The Number and Percent of Married and Unmarried Black and Nonblack Youth Who Entered Various Types of Colleges

Sex and Race	Type of College Entered	Parents' Income Level: Low				Moderate				High				Total			
		Married		Single		Married		Single		Married		Single		Married		Single	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Black Males	4-Yr Pub	17	47	336	51	12	48	283	47	2	100	93	43	31	49	712	48
	4-Yr Pvt	11	31	243	37	9	36	244	40	-		111	51	20	32	598	40
	2-Yr Pub	8	22	73	11*	3	12	73	12	-		13	6	11	17	159	11
	2-Yr Pvt	-		9	1	1	4	3	1	-		-		1	2	12	1
Nonblack Males	4-Yr Pub	15	63	290	57	45	64	1,107	55	18	62	876	47	78	63	2,273	52*
	4-Yr Pvt	5	21	138	27	8	11	543	27**	7	24	808	43*	20	16	1,489	34***
	2-Yr Pub	4	17	72	14	16	23	315	16	4	14	157	8	24	20	544	12*
	2-Yr Pvt	-		12	2	1	1	37	2	-		22	1	1	1	71	2
Black Females	4-Yr Pub	26	46	435	52	25	61	399	51	6	50	100	43	57	52	934	51
	4-Yr Pvt	19	34	282	34	9	22	286	37	4	33	112	48	32	29	680	37
	2-Yr Pub	10	18	103	12	7	17	87	11	2	17	18	8	19	17	208	11
	2-Yr Pvt	1	2	14	2	-		4	1	-		4	2	1	1	22	1
Nonblack Females	4-Yr Pub	44	63	297	51	84	56	1,188	59	53	58	939	49	181	58	2,424	54
	4-Yr Pvt	11	16	163	28*	27	18	526	26*	27	30	809	42*	65	21	1,498	33***
	2-Yr Pub	13	19	109	19	34	23	247	12***	11	12	142	7	58	19	498	11***
	2-Yr Pvt	2	3	16	3	5	3	53	3	-		34	2	7	2	103	2

Tables 9 and 10 present data on the relation of NMSQT selection scores of unmarried students to the type of college attended. These scores were related to the type of institution entered, but a considerably higher percentage of blacks than nonblacks were in 4-year private colleges in each NMSQT score range. Thus single blacks were overrepresented at institutions of this type. Although NMSQT scores are a factor in the type of college entered by married women, a married woman was generally

Table 9

The Number of Single Black and Nonblack Males With Different Characteristics and the Percent that Entered Various Types of Colleges

NMSQT Selection Score Range	Type of College	Socioeconomic Status: $6,000 and Below — Black N	Black %	Nonblack N	Nonblack %	$6,001-$12,000 — Black N	Black %	Nonblack N	Nonblack %	$12,001 and Above — Black N	Black %	Nonblack N	Nonblack %	Total — Black N	Black %	Nonblack N	Nonblack %
131-170	4-Yr Pub	-		42	55	-		195	53	-		222	39	-		459	46
	4-Yr Pvt	-		32	42	-		159	43	-		332	59	-		523	52
	2-Yr Pub	-		2	3	-		10	3	-		8	1	-		20	2
	2-Yr Pvt	-		1	1	-		2	1	-		1	-	-		4	-
122-130	4-Yr Pub	-		73	77	-		210	58	-		215	51	-		498	56
	4-Yr Pvt	-		20	21	-		123	34	-		196	46	-		339	38
	2-Yr Pub	-		1	1	-		27	7	-		12	3	-		40	5
	2-Yr Pvt	-		1	1	-		2	1	-		2	-	-		5	1
106-121	4-Yr Pub	-		52	56	-		240	61	-		182	54	-		474	58
	4-Yr Pvt	-		29	31	-		102	26	-		122	37	-		253	31
	2-Yr Pub	-		11	12	-		46	12	-		24	7	-		81	10
	2-Yr Pvt	-		1	1	-		7	2	-		6	2	-		14	2
91-105	4-Yr Pub	-		64	65	-		212	57	-		138	55	-		414	57
	4-Yr Pvt	-		24	24	-		82	22	-		78	31	-		184	25
	2-Yr Pub	-		10	10	-		76	20	-		36	14	-		122	17
	2-Yr Pvt	-		1	1	-		4	1	-		1	-	-		6	1
91-170	4-Yr Pub	97	45	231	63***	109	41	857	57***	49	38	757	48*	255	42	1,845	54***
	4-Yr Pvt	110	50	105	29***	139	53	466	31***	77	60	728	46**	326	53	1,299	38***
	2-Yr Pub	9	4	24	7	15	6	159	11*	3	2	80	5	27	4	263	8**
	2-Yr Pvt	2	1	4	1	1	-	15	1	-		10	1	3	-	29	1
75-90	4-Yr Pub	129	59	25	36**	94	55	166	56	30	56	73	41	253	57	264	48**
	4-Yr Pvt	65	30	16	23	59	35	39	13***	19	35	59	33	143	32	114	21***
	2-Yr Pub	25	11	22	32***	18	11	83	28***	5	9	40	23*	48	11	145	27***
	2-Yr Pvt	1	-	6	9***	-		11	4*	-		5	3	1	-	22	4***
62-74	4-Yr Pub	110	49	34	43	80	48	84	41	14	41	46	41	204	48	164	41
	4-Yr Pvt	68	30	17	22	46	27	38	18*	15	44	21	19**	129	30	76	19***
	2-Yr Pub	39	17	26	33**	40	24	73	35*	5	15	37	33*	84	20	136	34***
	2-Yr Pvt	6	3	2	3	2	1	11	5*	-		7	6	8	2	20	5*
Total	4-Yr Pub	336	51	290	57*	283	47	1,107	55***	93	43	876	47	712	48	2,273	52*
	4-Yr Pvt	243	37	138	-7***	244	40	543	27***	111	51	808	43*	598	40	1,489	34***
	2-Yr Pub	73	11	72	14	73	12	315	16*	13	6	157	8	159	11	544	12
	2-Yr Pvt	9	1	12	2	3	1	37	2*	-		22	1	12	1	71	2*

Table 10

The Number of Single Black and Nonblack Females With Different Characteristics and the Percent that Entered Various Types of Colleges

NMSQT Selection Score Range	Type of College	Socioeconomic Status: $6,000 and Below Black N	Black %	Nonblack N	Nonblack %	$6,001-$12,000 Black N	Black %	Nonblack N	Nonblack %	$12,001 and Above Black N	Black %	Nonblack N	Nonblack %	Total Black N	Black %	Nonblack N	Nonblack %
131-170	4-Yr Pub	-		32	36	-		224	57	-		248	41	-		504	46
	4-Yr Pvt	-		53	59	-		153	39	-		348	58	-		554	51
	2-Yr Pub	-		5	6	-		15	4	-		8	1	-		28	3
	2-Yr Pvt	-		-		-		3	1	-		1	-	-		4	-
122-130	4-Yr Pub	-		46	54	-		273	62	-		237	52	-		556	57
	4-Yr Pvt	-		30	35	-		143	32	-		206	45	-		379	39
	2-Yr Pub	-		8	9	-		22	5	-		9	2	-		39	4
	2-Yr Pvt	-		1	1	-		4	1	-		2	-	-		7	1
106-121	4-Yr Pub	-		81	68	-		255	61	-		193	56	-		529	60
	4-Yr Pvt	-		23	19	-		98	24	-		121	35	-		242	28
	2-Yr Pub	-		13	11	-		47	11	-		24	7	-		84	10
	2-Yr Pvt	-		2	2	-		15	4	-		7	2	-		24	3
91-105	4-Yr Pub	-		75	58	-		206	63	-		147	57	-		428	60
	4-Yr Pvt	-		24	18	-		62	19	-		74	28	-		160	22
	2-Yr Pub	-		27	21	-		50	15	-		34	13	-		111	15
	2-Yr Pvt	-		4	3	-		10	3	-		5	2	-		19	3
91-170	4-Yr Pub	135	49	234	55	159	48	958	61***	44	36	825	50**	338	46	2,017	55***
	4-Yr Pvt	127	46	130	31***	155	47	456	29***	77	63	749	45***	359	49	1,335	36***
	2-Yr Pub	14	5	53	13**	15	5	134	8*	1	1	75	5	30	4	262	7**
	2-Yr Pvt	1	-	7	2	-		32	2**	1	1	15	1	2	-	54	1**
75-90	4-Yr Pub	158	55	38	39**	135	54	144	57	33	46	82	47	326	53	264	50
	4-Yr Pvt	96	33	24	25	81	32	44	17***	26	36	43	24	203	33	111	21***
	2-Yr Pub	29	10	30	31***	32	13	55	22**	10	14	38	22	71	12	123	23***
	2-Yr Pvt	5	2	5	5	3	1	11	4*	3	4	13	7	11	2	29	6***
62-74	4-Yr Pub	142	53	25	39*	105	54	86	48	23	59	32	38*	270	54	143	44**
	4-Yr Pvt	59	22	9	14	50	26	26	14**	9	23	17	20	118	23	52	16**
	2-Yr Pub	60	22	26	41**	40	20	58	32**	7	18	29	35	107	21	113	34***
	2-Yr Pvt	8	3	4	6	1	1	10	6**	-		6	7	9	2	20	6***
Total	4-Yr Pub	435	52	297	51	399	51	1,188	59***	100	43	939	49	934	51	2,424	54*
	4-Yr Pvt	282	34	163	28*	286	37	526	26***	112	48	809	42	680	37	1,498	33**
	2-Yr Pub	103	12	109	19**	87	11	247	12	18	8	142	7	208	11	498	11
	2-Yr Pvt	14	2	16	3	4	1	53	3***	4	2	34	2	22	1	103	2**

less likely than an unmarried woman to enter a 4-year private college and more likely to enter a public college, particularly one with a 2-year program. Even among married women, a higher percentage of blacks than nonblacks attended 4-year private institutions.

Marriage and Persistence in College

Stanley (1971) notes that not many systematic studies of differential persistence between blacks and whites have yet been completed. Studies by Tetlow (1969), Clark and Plotkin (1963), Nicholson (1970), Borgen (1970), and Astin (1970) do indicate, however, that certain groups of black students have persisted well in their undergraduate studies.

Data are reported in Tables 11 and 12 for the percentages of blacks and nonblacks who completed the freshman year. Table 11 reveals, first of all, that very high percentages of these males--both black and nonblack--completed their first year. Slight but systematic differences can be seen, however, when SES and NMSQT selection scores are considered. Perhaps of interest is the finding that men in 2-year public colleges were somewhat less likely to finish the year than students in 4-year public or private institutions.

In general, married males, regardless of skin color, were less likely than single males to complete the freshman year. Overall, 91% of the unmarried black men finished the first year, while only 78% of the married ones did (Table 13). The comparable percentages for nonblack males were 94 and 81.

The persistence rates for women were much the same as those just reported for men, except that even lower percentages of married females finished the freshman year (Tables 11 and 13). Over 90% of the single women persisted to completion of the first year, but only about 70% of the married ones managed this achievement. SES did not appear to be related to completing the freshman year.

What About Freshman Grades?

Table 14 shows that nonblacks typically got better grades than the blacks did; females, particularly nonblacks, got better grades than their male counterparts. These results were expected. It was not expected, however, that single nonblack males would get better grades than their married peers. Systematic grade differences were not found between married and single nonblack females. Grade averages were related to the type of college attended.

The marital status of a black student--either male or female--did not appear to have a strong affect on the grades received. While most blacks got C's, few reported averages of D or lower.

Tables 15 and 16 highlight the differences in freshman grades obtained by single

Table 11

The Number of Single Black and Nonblack Males With Different Characteristics and The Percent That Completed The Freshman Year at Various Types of Colleges

NMSQT Selection Score Range	SES	Type of College Attended: 4-Yr Public Black N	%	4-Yr Public Nonblack N	%	4-Yr Private Black N	%	4-Yr Private Nonblack N	%	2-Yr Public Black N	%	2-Yr Public Nonblack N	%	2-Yr Private Black N	%	2-Yr Private Nonblack N	%	Total Black N	%	Total Nonblack N	%
131-170	Low	-		42	100	-		32	100	-		2	100	-		1	100	-		77	100
	Mod	-		194	96	-		159	96	-		10	80	-		2	100	-		365	96
	High	-		222	97	-		331	98	-		8	100	-		1	-	-		562	98
	Total	-		458	97	-		522	98	-		20	90	-		4	75	-		1,004	97
122-130	Low	-		73	93	-		19	95	-		1	100	-		1	100	-		94	94
	Mod	-		207	97	-		122	98	-		27	96	-		2	100	-		358	97
	High	-		213	96	-		195	97	-		12	100	-		2	100	-		422	97
	Total	-		493	96	-		336	97	-		40	98	-		5	100	-		874	97
106-121	Low	-		52	96	-		29	100	-		11	91	-		1	100	-		93	97
	Mod	-		238	97	-		102	97	-		46	85	-		6	100	-		392	95
	High	-		180	96	-		122	98	-		24	88	-		6	100	-		332	96
	Total	-		470	96	-		253	98	-		81	86	-		13	100	-		817	96
91-105	Low	-		64	91	-		24	88	-		10	90	-		1	100	-		99	90
	Mod	-		206	95	-		82	93	-		76	88	-		4	100	-		368	93
	High	-		134	95	-		78	94	-		35	89	-		1	100	-		248	94
	Total	-		404	94	-		184	92	-		121	88	-		6	100	-		715	93
91-170	Low	96	90	231	94	107	94	104	96	9	67	24	92	2	100	4	100	214	91	363	95
	Mod	107	96	845	96	138	96	465	96	15	93	159	88	1	100	14	100	261	96	1,483	95
	High	49	94	749	96	73	99	726	98	3	100	79	91	-		10	90	125	97	1,564	96
	Total	252	93	1,825	96	318	96	1,295	97	27	85	262	89	3	100	28	96	600	95	3,410	96
75-90	Low	128	89	25	92	65	88	16	100	25	80	22	91	1	100	6	83	219	88	69	93
	Mod	93	90	164	88	59	90	38	97	18	78	83	76	-		11	91	170	89	296	86
	High	29	93	72	94	19	95	58	95	5	80	40	85	-		5	100	53	92	175	93
	Total	250	90	261	90	143	90	112	96*	48	79	145	81	1	100	22	91	442	89	540	89
62-74	Low	109	85	34	88	67	97	17	82*	37	81	26	65	6	67	2	50	219	88	79	78*
	Mod	80	91	83	80*	46	80	38	95	37	76	73	79	2	100	11	100	165	85	205	83
	High	13	85	45	84	15	100	21	95	5	100	36	81	-		7	100	33	94	109	86
	Total	202	88	162	83	128	91	76	92	79	80	135	77	8	75	20	95	417	87	393	83
Total	Low	333	88	290	93*	239	93	137	95	71	79	72	82	9	78	12	83	652	89	511	92
	Mod	280	93	1,092	94	243	92	541	96*	70	80	315	83	3	100	36	97	596	91	1,984	93
	High	91	92	866	95	107	98	805	97	13	92	155	87	-		22	95	211	95	1,848	95
	Total	704	90	2,248	94***	589	94	1,483	97**	154	81	542	84	12	83	70	94	1,459	91	4,343	94***

Table 12

The Number of Single Black and Nonblack Females With Different Characteristics and the Percent that Completed the Freshman Year at Various Types of Colleges

NMSQT Selection Score Range	SES	Type of College Attended: 4-Yr Public Black N	%	4-Yr Public Nonblack N	%	4-Yr Private Black N	%	4-Yr Private Nonblack N	%	2-Yr Public Black N	%	2-Yr Public Nonblack N	%	2-Yr Private Black N	%	2-Yr Private Nonblack N	%	Total Black N	%	Total Nonblack N	%
131-170	Low	-		32	94	-		53	96	-		5	100	-		-		-		90	96
	Mod	-		222	97	-		153	97	-		15	93	-		3	100	-		393	97
	High	-		247	98	-		344	99	-		8	88	-		1	100	-		600	98
	Total	-		501	97	-		550	98	-		28	93	-		4	100	-		1,083	98
122-130	Low	-		45	91	-		30	100	-		8	88	-		1	100	-		84	94
	Mod	-		272	95	-		143	96	-		22	95	-		4	100	-		441	95
	High	-		237	95	-		205	99	-		9	100	-		2	100	-		453	97
	Total	-		554	95	-		378	98	-		39	95	-		7	100	-		978	96
106-121	Low	-		81	99	-		22	91	-		13	92	-		2	100	-		118	97
	Mod	-		254	98	-		98	98	-		47	94	-		15	100	-		414	97
	High	-		192	97	-		121	96	-		24	96	-		7	100	-		344	97
	Total	-		527	98	-		241	96	-		84	94	-		24	100	-		876	97
91-105	Low	-		75	95	-		24	96	-		27	96	-		4	100	-		130	95
	Mod	-		202	95	-		62	92	-		50	98	-		10	90	-		324	95
	High	-		146	97	-		74	99	-		34	82	-		5	100	-		259	96
	Total	-		423	96	-		160	96	-		111	93	-		19	95	-		713	95
91-170	Low	134	94	233	95	127	97	129	96	14	79	53	94	1	100	7	100	276	95	422	96
	Mod	158	96	950	96	154	99	456	96	14	86	134	96	-		32	97	326	97	1,572	96
	High	44	98	822	97	76	99	744	99	1	100	75	89	1	100	15	100	122	98	1,656	97
	Total	336	96	2,005	96	357	98	1,329	98	29	83	262	94*	2	100	54	98	724	96	3,650	97
75-90	Low	156	92	38	95	94	91	24	96	29	86	30	87	5	80	5	100	284	91	97	93
	Mod	134	91	144	93	80	93	44	91	32	72	54	89*	3	100	11	91	249	89	253	92
	High	33	97	81	94	26	100	43	95	8	63	37	81	3	67	13	100	70	93	174	92
	Total	323	92	263	94	200	93	111	94	69	77	121	86	11	82	29	97	603	90	524	92
62-74	Low	142	88	25	68**	58	91	9	89	59	69	26	88	8	100	3	100	267	85	63	81
	Mod	103	91	85	89	49	94	26	88	40	78	58	83	1	-	10	80	193	89	179	87
	High	22	82	32	91	9	89	17	94	7	86	29	79	-		6	100	38	84	84	88
	Total	267	89	142	86	116	92	52	90	106	74	113	83	9	89	19	89	498	86	326	86
Total	Low	432	91	296	93	279	94	162	96	102	75	109	91**	14	93	15	100	827	90	582	93*
	Mod	395	93	1,179	95	283	96	526	95	86	77	246	91***	4	75	53	92	768	92	2,004	95*
	High	99	94	935	96	111	98	804	98	16	75	141	85	4	75	34	100**	230	94	1,914	96
	Total	926	92	2,410	95***	673	96	1,492	97	204	76	496	89***	22	86	102	96	1,825	92	4,500	95***

Table 13

The Number of Married Attenders at Various Types of Colleges and the Percent that Completed the Freshman Year

		Type of College Attended																	
		4-Yr Public				4-Yr Private				2-Yr Public				2-Yr Private				Total			
		Black		Nonblack		Black		Nonblack		Black		Nonblack		Black		Nonblack		Black		Nonblack	
Sex	SES	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Males	Low	17	82	14	71	11	73	5	100	8	100	4	75	-		-		36	83	23	78
	Mod	12	83	45	87	9	78	8	63	3	33	16	69	1	-	1	100	25	72	70	80
	High	2	50	18	83	-		7	100	-		4	75	-		-		2	50	29	86
	Total	31	81	77	83	20	75	20	85	11	82	24	71	1	-	1	100	63	78	122	81
Females	Low	26	81	44	70	19	74	11	91	10	50	13	62	1	100	2	100	56	73	70	73
	Mod	25	64	83	77	9	56	27	67	7	71	34	65	-		5	80	41	63	149	72
	High	6	83	53	70	4	100	27	85	2	50	11	45	-		-		12	83	91	71
	Total	57	74	180	73	32	72	65	78	19	58	58	60	1	100	7	86	109	71	310	72

Table 14

The Number and Percent of Married and Unmarried Black and Nonblack Students who got Different Freshman Grade Averages at Various Types of Colleges

		Type of College Attended																	
		4-Yr Public				4-Yr Private				2-Yr Public				2-Yr Private				Total			
		Married		Single		Married		Single		Married		Single		Married		Single		Married		Single	
Sex and Race	Fr. GPA	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Black Males	A	3	10	15	2**	2	10	18	3	-		2	1	-		-		5	8	35	2**
	B	9	30	174	24	5	25	210	35	2	17	42	26	-		5	42	16	25	431	29
	C	15	50	457	64	12	60	332	55	10	83	111	68	1	100	5	42	38	60	905	61
	D,F	3	10	69	10	1	5	43	7	-		9	5	-		2	17	4	6	123	8
Nonblack Males	A	8	10	298	13	-		194	13	2	8	31	6	-		9	12	10	8	532	12
	B	24	31	886	38	10	48	683	45	6	25	189	34	1	100	27	36	41	33	1,785	40
	C	41	53	983	42	9	43	560	37	14	58	305	55	-		33	45	64	52	1,881	42*
	D,F	4	5	170	7	2	10	68	5	2	8	27	5	-		5	7	8	7	270	6
Black Females	A	2	3	31	3	2	6	30	4	2	10	5	2	-		-		6	5	66	3
	B	18	30	313	33	10	30	296	42	8	40	69	33	-		12	50	36	31	690	36
	C	38	62	549	57	18	55	342	49	10	50	129	61	-		10	42	66	57	1,030	54
	D,F	3	5	70	7	3	9	30	4	-		8	4	1	100	2	8	7	6	110	6
Nonblack Females	A	28	15	373	15	6	9	227	14	15	25	57	11**	1	14	12	11	50	16	669	14
	B	89	47	1,270	50	37	56	907	58	28	47	241	45	1	14	56	50	155	48	2,474	52
	C	61	32	869	34	22	33	412	26	15	25	216	41*	4	57	41	37	102	32	1,538	32
	D,F	10	5	40	2***	1	2	28	2	2	3	17	3	1	14	3	3	14	4	88	2**

Table 15

The Number and Percent of Single Black and Nonblack Males at the Different NMSQT Selection Score Ranges Who Got Various Freshman Grade Averages

NMSQT Selection Score Range	Fr. GPA	Type of College Attended: 4-Yr Public Black N	%	4-Yr Public Nonblack N	%	4-Yr Private Black N	%	4-Yr Private Nonblack N	%	2-Yr Public Black N	%	2-Yr Public Nonblack N	%	2-Yr Private Black N	%	2-Yr Private Nonblack N	%	Total Black N	%	Total Nonblack N	%
131-170	A	-		139	29	-		125	24	-		5	25	-		2	50	-		271	27
	B	-		211	45	-		264	50	-		11	55	-		2	50	-		488	48
	C	-		111	23	-		118	23	-		4	20	-		-		-		233	23
	D,F	-		13	3	-		16	3	-		-		-		-		-		29	3
122-130	A	-		97	19	-		42	12	-		6	15	-		3	60	-		148	16
	B	-		229	45	-		177	51	-		24	59	-		1	20	-		431	48
	C	-		157	31	-		118	34	-		11	27	-		1	20	-		287	32
	D,F	-		25	5	-		9	3	-		-		-		-		-		34	4
106-121	A	-		40	8	-		21	8	-		9	11	-		4	31	-		74	9
	B	-		221	45	-		129	50	-		33	41	-		2	15	-		385	46
	C	-		202	41	-		94	37	-		34	42	-		7	54	-		337	40
	D,F	-		26	5	-		12	5	-		5	6	-		-		-		43	5
91-105	A	-		16	4	-		6	3	-		7	6	-		-		-		29	4
	B	-		137	32	-		62	33	-		48	38	-		6	67	-		253	34
	C	-		236	55	-		109	58	-		69	55	-		3	33	-		417	55
	D,F	-		39	9	-		12	6	-		2	2	-		-		-		53	7
91-170	A	9	4	292	15***	11	3	194	15***	1	4	27	10	-		9	29	21	3	522	15***
	B	75	30	798	42***	123	38	632	48***	11	39	116	43	1	33	11	35	210	34	1,557	44***
	C	146	58	706	37***	169	52	439	33***	15	54	118	44	2	67	11	35	332	54	1,274	36***
	D,F	23	9	103	5*	24	7	49	4**	1	4	7	3	-		-		48	8	159	5***
75-90	A	5	2	3	1	3	2	-		-		3	2	-		-		8	2	6	1
	B	61	24	60	22	51	35	34	29	15	31	45	31	1	100	10	45	128	28	149	27
	C	165	65	167	62	83	57	71	61	31	63	85	59	-		9	41	279	62	332	60
	D,F	24	9	40	15	9	6	12	10	3	6	12	8	-		3	14	36	8	67	12*
62-74	A	1	-	3	2	4	3	-		1	1	1	1	-		-		6	1	4	1
	B	38	18	28	17	36	28	17	23	16	18	28	20	3	38	6	29	93	22	79	20
	C	146	71	110	65	80	62	50	68	65	75	102	73	3	38	13	62	294	68	275	68
	D,F	22	11	27	16	10	8	7	9	5	6	8	6	2	25	2	10	39	9	44	11
Total	A	15	2	298	13***	18	3	194	13***	2	1	31	6*	-		9	12	35	2	532	12***
	B	174	24	886	38***	210	35	683	45***	42	26	189	34*	5	42	27	36	431	29	1,785	40***
	C	457	64	983	42***	332	55	560	37***	111	68	305	55**	5	42	33	45	905	61	1,881	42***
	D,F	69	10	170	7*	43	7	68	5*	9	5	27	5	2	17	5	7	123	8	270	6**

Table 16

The Number and Percent of Single Black and Nonblack Females at the Different NMSQT Selection Score Ranges Who Got Various Freshman Grade Averages

NMSQT Selection Score Range	Fr. GPA	Type of College Attended: 4-Yr Public Black N	%	4-Yr Public Nonblack N	%	4-Yr Private Black N	%	4-Yr Private Nonblack N	%	2-Yr Public Black N	%	2-Yr Public Nonblack N	%	2-Yr Private Black N	%	2-Yr Private Nonblack N	%	Total Black N	%	Total Nonblack N	%
131-170	A	-		172	33	-		134	24	-		18	60	-		1	20	-		325	29
	B	-		282	54	-		344	61	-		10	33	-		3	60	-		639	57
	C	-		71	14	-		85	15	-		2	7	-		1	20	-		159	14
	D,F	-		1	-	-		3	1	-		-		-		-		-		4	-
122-130	A	-		104	18	-		64	16	-		10	23	-		2	22	-		180	17
	B	-		350	60	-		261	65	-		25	58	-		6	67	-		642	62
	C	-		125	21	-		75	19	-		8	19	-		1	11	-		209	20
	D,F	-		6	1	-		2	1	-		-		-		-		-		8	1
106-121	A	-		64	11	-		21	8	-		12	14	-		6	25	-		103	11
	B	-		326	58	-		161	63	-		52	59	-		11	46	-		550	59
	C	-		166	30	-		68	26	-		24	27	-		7	29	-		265	29
	D,F	-		4	1	-		7	3	-		-		-		-		-		11	1
91-105	A	-		21	5	-		4	2	-		10	9	-		3	15	-		38	5
	B	-		193	43	-		80	47	-		68	59	-		12	60	-		353	47
	C	-		227	51	-		82	48	-		36	31	-		5	25	-		350	46
	D,F	-		6	1	-		5	3	-		2	2	-		-		-		13	2
91-170	A	16	5	361	17***	25	7	223	16***	2	6	50	18	-		12	21	43	6	646	17***
	B	148	43	1,151	54***	175	48	846	61***	10	32	155	56*	1	50	32	55	334	45	2,184	57***
	C	171	49	589	28***	151	41	310	22***	17	55	70	25***	-		14	24	339	45	983	26***
	D,F	13	4	17	1***	16	4	17	1***	2	6	2	1**	1	50	-	***	32	4	36	1***
75-90	A	9	3	9	3	5	2	3	2	2	3	5	4	-		-		16	3	17	3
	B	103	30	82	29	73	35	47	38	26	36	44	35	7	58	17	53	209	33	190	34
	C	196	57	181	64	121	58	68	55	44	61	71	56	4	33	15	47	365	58	335	59
	D,F	34	10	11	4**	8	4	5	4	-		7	6*	1	8	-		43	7	23	4*
62-74	A	6	2	3	2	-		1	2	1	1	2	2	-		-		7	1	6	2
	B	62	23	37	25	48	39	14	25	33	31	42	33	4	40	7	32	147	29	100	28
	C	182	67	99	66	70	56	34	62	68	63	75	59	6	60	12	55	326	63	220	62
	D,F	23	8	12	8	6	5	6	11	6	6	8	6	-		3	14	35	7	29	8
Total	A	31	3	373	15***	30	4	227	14***	5	2	57	11***	-		12	11	66	3	669	14***
	B	313	33	1,270	50***	296	42	907	58***	69	33	241	45**	12	50	56	50	690	36	2,474	52***
	C	549	57	869	34***	342	49	412	26***	129	61	216	41***	10	42	41	37	1,030	54	1,538	32***
	D,F	70	7	40	2***	30	4	28	2***	8	4	17	3	2	8	3	3	110	6	88	2***

black and nonblack attenders. The grades received were clearly related to NMSQT selection scores. Three-fourths of the nonblack males in the 131-170 range (the top 10% on the nonblack NMSQT distribution) got A or B averages, while only 21% of those in the 62-74 range received grade averages that high (Table 15); and the high scorers typically attended more "difficult" colleges in terms of receiving a high grade. Grade averages were related to the type of college attended; the 4-year private institutions were a bit more liberal in giving students A's or B's than were 4-year public colleges.

We noted already that single nonblack men typically got better freshman grades than nonblacks who married. Interestingly, distribution of freshman averages for married nonblack men was not too different from that for married blacks (Table 17), although the trend of the data reveal that the nonblacks did slightly better.

Table 17

The Number and Percent of Married Black and Nonblack Youth Who Obtained Various Freshman Grade Averages in Different Types of Colleges

		Type of College Attended																	
		4-Yr Public				4-Yr Private				2-Yr Public				2-Yr Private				Total			
		Black		Nonblack		Black		Nonblack		Black		Nonblack		Black		Nonblack		Black		Nonblack	
Sex	Fr. GPA	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Males	A	3	10	8	10	2	10	-		-		2	8	-		-		5	8	10	8
	B	9	30	24	31	5	25	10	48	2	17	6	25	-		1	100	16	25	41	33
	C	15	50	41	53	12	60	9	43	10	83	14	58	1	100	-		38	60	64	52
	D,F	3	10	4	5	1	5	2	10	-		2	8	-		-		4	6	8	7
Females	A	2	3	28	15*	2	6	6	9	2	10	15	25	-		1	14	6	5	50	16**
	B	18	30	89	47*	10	30	37	56*	8	40	28	47	-		1	14	36	31	155	48**
	C	38	62	61	32***	18	55	22	33*	10	50	15	25*	-		4	57	66	57	102	32***
	D,F	3	5	10	5	3	9	1	2	-		2	3	1	100	1	14	7	6	14	4

Let us refer again to Table 16, where freshman grades are shown for single women on the basis of NMSQT scores and type of college attended. As was the case for single men (Table 15), NMSQT selection scores are clearly related to freshman academic performance. While nonblacks do better academically than blacks do, very few single women, especailly nonblacks, reported below C grade averages. The NMSQT appears to predict grades about as well for nonblacks who are married as it does for those who are single.

SUMMARY

Taking into account a number of student characteristics, this study was designed to investigate the effect that marriage appears to have on the college attendance behavior of a group of college-motivated youth during the academic year following their high school graduation. Generalizing from the results is limited because many participants selected for the study did not return the 1-page questionnaire mailed to

them. Blacks returned the questionnaire less frequently than the nonblacks did, and relatively lower scorers on the NMSQT were not as likely to provide questionnaire data as the higher scorers were. However, the rate of return was sufficiently high, particularly among the higher scorers, to warrent these tentative conclusions:

1. Overall, the frequency of marriage of those responding was higher for women (8% for blacks, 9% for nonblacks) than men (5% for blacks, 4% for nonblacks); marriage frequency for women was related to measured academic ability, parental income, geographic area of residence, but not to high school grade average.
2. Marriage appears to play a more important role in the college attendance behavior of nonblack than black males; college attendance for women of either race is highly dependent on their marital status.
3. The type of college attended is related to marital status, especially for nonblacks.
4. Regardless of skin color, married students, both males and females, were less likely than single students to complete the freshman year.
5. Single nonblack males typically got better grades than their married peers, but systematic grade differences were not found between married and single nonblack females. The marital status of a black student, male or female, did not have a strong bearing on the grades received.

DISCUSSION

The data reported in this and another study (Watley, 1971) were obtained to learn about the college attendance behavior of participants in the scholarship programs of National Merit. There was a particular desire to identify test-bright academic achievers who wanted to continue their education but were not able to do so. While the proportions of students with given characteristics who responded to the 1-page questionnaire might have been higher, a number of tentative conclusions are possible. A main conclusion of the prior study was that there are indeed few high-scoring academically successful students who do not enter institutions of higher learning, suggesting that the situation has changed since the 1950's when Wolfle (1) and others reported that many test-bright achievers were not among those numbered on college and university campuses. Continuing the earlier study, this investigation focused on the relation of college attendance to an individual's marital status.

To marry or remain single is obviously a personal decision. But the extent to which marriage affects the attendance behavior of college-motivated youth is a question that can be looked at empirically. The results found here point clearly to the conclusion that a person's chances of entering a college or university during the

academic year following high school graduation are much reduced if he or she marries. And a married women, regardless of her color, is even less likely to attend than her male counterpart. Marriage can also affect the type of college entered, the grades received, and whether a person completes the freshman year.

The relatively high rate of nonresponse to the questionnaire is a problem here that cannot be ignored. In the present case, however, it is hard to see how an important systematic response bias exists that would substantially affect the direction of the obtained results. In essence, would a systematic response bias be expected between single and married youth such as to seriously affect the information they provide about their college attendance behavior?

In the interest of developing the nation's talented resources, NMSC has since 1955 annually attempted to identify the cream of this country's secondary school graduates in terms of potential academic brainpower. It is not implicitly assumed, however, that every individual should enter an institution of higher learning. Like marriage, the decision to attend college is personal. But it is consistent with the democratic ideal to help individuals develop their talents and skills to the limit of their ability and desire.

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